Amendments in Labour Laws

†379. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministries of Commerce and Textile have formulated a prposed to make certain changes in the name of reforms in Labour Laws;

(b) if so, the outlines of the said proposal;

(c) whether his Ministry has considered this proposal; and

(d) if so, Government's response on the implementation of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) The proposal of the Ministry of Textiles is under examination.

Investments made in Employees Provident Fund

†380. SHRI RAVI SANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have found some measures to make maximum profit on investment of Employees Provident Funds;

(b) if so, the details of said possible measures and the investment made from the said funds, so far; and

(c) the percentage of profit earned from this?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) As per the Investment Pattern prescribed under Para — 52 (1) of the EPF Scheme, 1952 and the investment guidelines prescribed for such investments. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is allowed to invest in fixed income securities, which have to be held till maturity. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is not allowed to indulge in selling of securities. As such, the question of making profits on investments does not arise.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Social Welfare Scheme for plantation workers

381. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the working population in the informal sector totalling some 36 crores, comprises of 93% of total workforce in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for a paltry allocation of Rs. 13 crores for the year 2004-05 to cover the unorganised sector Social Security Scheme, as compared to a whopping Rs. 500 crores to cover Employees Pension Scheme for the organized sector; and

(c) whether this paltry allocation of Rs. 13 crores includes social welfare schemes for plantation workers in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 600/- crores have been sanctioned towards Employees Pension Scheme during 2004-05. As the implementation of the Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Scheme, 2004 is at standstill and the scheme is being re-worked, no allocations of funds were made during that year.

(c) The Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 11.20 crore @ 1.16% of the pay of the Provident Fund Member towards Family Pension Scheme under the Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund during the year 2004-05. Another 2.20 crore has been sanctioned during the same year towards the Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme under Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund Scheme.

Amendments in the Agricultural Workers Bill

382. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for Women has suggested some amendments in the Agricultural Workers Bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether those amendments would be incorporated in the Bill;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.